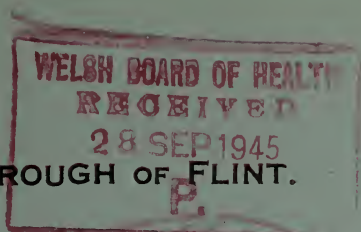


MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF FLINT.



# Medical Officer's Annual Report ::

For the Year ended  
31st December, 1944.



# MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF FLINT.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Borough  
Council of Flint.

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Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you, as your Medical Officer, my Report on the health of the Borough in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1944.

The restrictions on the publication of certain statistical information, imposed for reasons of national security, have now been removed and, in consequence, I have given in this Report the fuller information on the vital statistics which was shown in my pre-war Reports.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

**Area.**—The area of the Borough remained unchanged at the end of the year at 6,243 statutory acres.

**Population.**—The population, as estimated at mid-year 1944 by the Registrar General, was 11,750.

**Inhabited Houses.**—According to the Council's Rate Books there were, at the end of the year, 3,698 inhabited houses in the Borough. The population density was 1.88 persons per statutory acre and the average number of persons per house 3.18.

**Financial Conditions.**—The product of a penny rate for the financial year 1944-45 was £238, and the rateable value of the area at 1st April, 1944, was £61,467.

**Social Conditions.**—The manufacture of artificial silk and paper, together with agriculture, comprise the main industries of the Borough. Many of the residents, however, find employment also in the steel and iron industry at the Hawarden Bridge Steelworks, situate in a neighbouring district.

Despite the longer and more arduous hours of work, necessitated by the demands of the war, the health of the workers has been maintained at a remarkably high standard, and it can be said that the proximity of the industries to the homes of the residents has not noticeably affected their health.

**Vital Statistics.**—These are given, in the main throughout the Report, in tabular form, and for the purpose of interesting comparison the several rates are shown also in respect of the previous year.

TABLE 1.—BIRTHS.

Classification.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.		Rate per 1000 total (live & still births).	
					1944.	1943.	1944.	1943.
Live Births—								
Legitimate	...	115	109	224	19.06	20.30	—	—
Illegitimate	...	5	6	11	.94	.67	—	—
Legit. & Illegit.		120	115	235	20.00	20.97	—	—
Stillbirths—								
Legitimate	...	5	—	5	.43	.67	20.75	31.00
Illegitimate	...	—	1	1	.08	—	4.15	—
Legit. & Illegit.		5	1	6	.51	.67	24.90	31.00
All Births	...	125	116	241	20.51	21.64	—	—
(live & still)								

The live-birth rate for England and Wales for the year under report was 17.6, and the still-birth rate for the same year .50 per 1000 total population.

TABLE 2.—DEATHS (General) RATE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.	
				1944.	1943.
All Ages (all Causes) ...	70	72	142	12.08	14.17

TABLE 3.—DEATHS (General) ANALYSIS.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate
				per 1000 population.
Heart Disease ...	20	19	39	3.31
Causes (not otherwise specified herein)	12	9	21	1.78
Cancer (sites other than elsewhere specified) ...	4	9	13	1.11
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	6	6	12	1.02
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum...	5	2	7	.59
Nephritis ...	3	3	6	.51
Pneumonia ...	2	4	6	.51
Bronchitis ...	4	1	5	.43
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2	4	.34
Other Respiratory Diseases...	1	3	4	.34

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.
Violence (other than those herein specified) ... ..	3	1	4	.34
Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	3	3	.26
Digestive Diseases (not specified)... ..	1	2	3	.26
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	2	.17
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	2	—	2	.17
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases ... ..	—	2	2	.17
Cancer of buc., cav. & Oesoph (M), Uterus (F) ... ..	—	2	2	.17
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1	.085
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1	—	1	.085
Influenza ... ..	—	1	1	.045
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—	1	.085
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	1	1	.085
Diseases of Circulatory System (not specified) ... ..	—	1	1	.085
Premature Birth ... ..	1	—	1	.085
Totals ... ..	70	72	142	12.08

It will be noted from the foregoing Table that Heart Disease headed the list of the causes of death, and that Whooping Cough accounted for one death and Diarrhœa for two deaths in children aged under two years.

The death rate, from all causes, for England and Wales for the year under report was 11.6 per 1000 total population.

TABLE 4.—DEATHS (Childbirth).

I am pleased to report that there were no deaths from, or in consequence of, childbirth in the area during the year.

TABLE 5.—DEATH RATES (Infantile).  
(i.e., Infants under 1 year of age).

Classification.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000	England & Wales. 1944.
				live births. 1944.	
Legitimate ... ..	7	4	11	49.11	—
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Legitimate & Illegit.	7	4	11	49.11	46.00

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Officers responsible for the supervision of the health of the Borough during the year remain unchanged.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—Again this year, much use has been made of the Emergency Public Health Laboratories at Conway. Between 800 and 900 swabs have been sent this year for bacteriological examination. This helped in detecting carriers in certain schools in the Borough and, therefore, directly assisted in combating the outbreak of Diphtheria at the beginning of the year. Again it should be mentioned that many helpful suggestions have been received from Dr. Hoare, the Medical Officer of these Laboratories. In addition to swabs being sent, two tins of milk and several milk samples were sent for examination.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—There is an ambulance, provided by a voluntary organisation, available to the residents of the Borough for general sickness cases. Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd., also provide an ambulance for the use of employees.

**Nursing in the Home.**—The District Nursing Association maintain a fully-trained Nurse (resident in the Borough) for general sick nursing, and it is noted from the Association's Report for the year ended April 30th, 1945, that the Nurse paid over 2,000 visits to patients in their homes during that year. Very valuable nursing assistance is given by the members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment. The work of the local Brigade of the St. John Ambulance Association is also greatly appreciated.

**Midwifery.**—The area was served by five qualified midwives practising domiciliary midwifery. Two of these are employed full-time by the County Council.

**Treatment Clinics and Centres.**—The following Table gives particulars of the Centres and Clinics at which facilities for consultation and/or treatment are available to the residents of the Borough:—

Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Opening.
<b>Tuberculosis</b> (Provided by the Welsh Nat. Memorial Association under arrangements made by the County Council).	Cottage Hospital, Holywell. Oaklands, Queens-ferry.	Every Tuesday, 10-30 a.m. Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.



Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Opening.
<b>Venereal Diseases</b>		
(Under arrangements...made by the County Council).	Royal Infirmary, Chester.	...Males: Every Wednesday, 5—7 p.m. Every Saturday, 12 noon—2 p.m. Females: Every Monday, 5—7 p.m. Every Thursday, 5—7 p.m.
<b>Ante-Natal</b>		
(Provided by County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	First & 3rd Thursdays of month, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.
<b>Infant Welfare and Post-Natal</b>		
(Provided by County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Every Monday, 1-30-4-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends 2nd & 4th Monday each month.
<b>School Clinic</b>		
(Provided by County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Every Tuesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.
<b>Orthopædic</b>		
(Provided by County Council).	Holywell—Cottage Hospital.	...2nd & 4th Friday each month, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
	Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road.	...2nd & 4th Friday each month, 1-30—3-30 p.m.
	Shotton—New Clinic, Central School.	...1st & 3rd Friday each month, 10-30 a.m. 1-30 p.m.

**Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).—**The Borough was splendidly served by the Flint Cottage Hospital. Four local Medical Practitioners act as its Hon. Medical Officers, and from the Hospital's Report for the year ended 30th April, 1945, it is noted that 398 in-patients were dealt with and that 221 operations (including 101 of a major character) were carried out. There were 8 deaths in the hospital, and the average stay of patients was 10 days.

The Hospital is now equipped with an X-Ray unit.

Cases are also sent from the Borough to the Chester Royal Infirmary, either under private arrangements or through Works' Hospital Schemes and the Deeside Hospitals Council's Penny-in-the-Pound Scheme.

Hospital treatment for the sick and infirm is also provided by the County Council in their two Public Assistance Hospitals situate respectively at Holywell and St. Asaph.

**Maternity Homes.**—While there is no Maternity Home in the Borough, accommodation is provided by the County Council at the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, distant approximately six miles from Flint. Cases may be admitted to the private wards or, on payment of a moderate fee (assessed in accordance with an income scale), or even free of charge, to the general wards.

**War-time Nursery.**—Under the supervision of the County Medical Officer, excellent provision was made for the care of children, under the age of 5 years, of mothers employed in war work, at the splendidly equipped and efficiently staffed Day-Nursery situate near the Council School, Flint.

### SECTION C.

**Water and Water Supplies.**—Throughout the year, the water supply in all respects, has been satisfactorily maintained from the point of view of quantity and quality. All water supplied, except Birkenhead water, is chlorinated. In a few isolated cases water is still being drawn from springs or wells but, during the year, these cases were reduced and a number were connected to the town mains.

Approval of the Ministry has been obtained to the extension of the high pressure main from Coed Onn Road, across fields down Leadbrook Lane, connecting to the existing three inch water main in Chester Road. This extension is being carried out owing to properties in this area, supplied from private source, being without water during the drought periods.

A further scheme is being considered by the Council for the extension of mains through the rural areas of the Borough, and the Ministry and County Council have already been approached regarding consideration of a scheme under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.



**Drainage and Sewerage.**—Consideration is now being given to the provision of a modern drainage system in the Oakenholt area, and it is hoped that this scheme will be proceeded with as soon as circumstances allow. Immediate consideration should also be given to the proposed sewerage scheme for the Bagillt area, taking into consideration the proposals under the Town Planning Schemes.

**Public Cleansing.**—At the end of the year the refuse tip was sprayed with a new insecticide. This treatment will be carried out in the future in winter and spring, and it is hoped that it will be the means of preventing the 'tip' from becoming a breeding ground for flies and other pests.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**—All sanitary defects found, and complaints lodged with the Council's officers, were effectively dealt with by the Health Authorities. Particulars as to the number of routine and special inspections made during the year are given in the following Table:—

TABLE 6.—SANITARY INSPECTION and SUPERVISION.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses ... ..	27
do. Courts, Yards and Passages...	1
do. W.C., Privy, Earth and Pail Closets ... ..	7
do. Offensive Accumulations ... ..	2
do. Rattus Nervegicus ... ..	29
Number of Cesspools emptied and cleansed ...	66
Remedying Defective House Drainage...	312
Infectious Disease (and re-visits) ... ..	211
Fumigations ... ..	120
Additional Fumigations (after Tuberculosis) apart from those for Infectious Disease noted above ... ..	5

TABLE 7.—MISCELLANEOUS COMPLAINTS  
(for which Notices were issued).

Lopping of Hedges... ..	12
To abate a Nuisance ... ..	11
Works to Drains ... ..	2
Supply of Ashbin ... ..	2

**Schools.**—As stated in my last Report, towards the end of 1943, the incidence of Diphtheria in the Borough commenced. This extended into this year. During February, as

previously stated, 800 swabs were taken from school children in a district where the incidence of Diphtheria was heavier than elsewhere. All the school children were kept under close observation by the County Medical Officer and his Assistant, and children found with suspicious symptoms were excluded from school. Again, there was no lack of co-operation between the Health Authorities in the Borough and those of the County Council. Two schools received treatment with Formaline Solution, and it was very encouraging to note that although the number of cases of Diphtheria were more than usual, it was not once considered necessary to close any of the schools in the Borough.

### SECTION D.

**Housing.**—The Council have purchased approximately 40 acres of land in the Oakenholt area for the erection of Council houses, and sanction to the lay-out of portion of this site has been received from the Welsh Board of Health. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in the very near future, and the portion approved will allow for the erection of 70 Arcon Temporary Bungalows and approximately 70 permanent houses.

The question of housing in the Bagillt area has been delayed owing to the controversy over the proposals of the Town Planning Scheme. Immediately these matters have been settled, it is intended to erect 30 Arcon Temporary Bungalows in the area, but until this matter is settled the negotiations for the purchase of the land in this area cannot be carried out.

### SECTION E.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**Milk and Milk Supplies (Dairies and Shippons).**—During the year under review, 12 inspections were made of farms in the Borough. These were found to be satisfactory. During the period, one new registration was made. This farm is in the Bagillt area.

**National Milk Testing Scheme.**—The National Milk Testing Scheme, which came into operation in August, 1943, was taken over by the County Agricultural Committee in September of the year under report. However, 75 samples were taken between the 1st January and September, by this Authority, and all were found to be satisfactory in keeping quality.

**Milk and Milk Supplies.**—Pasteurised milk is still being supplied in the greater part of the area. During the year under

review, the reports as regards adulteration and uncleanness have been comparatively few. Those cases, however, which were received were fully investigated and the conditions improved.

**Bakehouses.**—Inspections were carried out during the year of five bakehouses in the Borough. All were found to be very satisfactory.

**Meat and Other Foods Condemned.**—Routine visits of inspection were made to shops and food depôts, and the following articles of food were condemned and disposed of:—16 tins chopped ham, 21 tins of fruit, 19 tins of pork and luncheon meat, 181 tins milk, 387 tins vegetables, 33 tins beef, 23 tins meat roll, 68 tins fish, 2 tons fresh fish, 10 stones fresh fish, 52½ lbs. bacon, 150 lbs. prunes, 27 tins Army rations, 2 tins pork and beans, 12 pies.

Of the above, the following were received from the Ministry of Food Buffer Depôts in the Borough:—6 tins milk, 4 tins meat, 32 tins beef, 16 tins chopped ham, 372 tins vegetables, 27 tins Army rations.

**Adulteration.**—The County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling and analysing of food.

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

TABLE 8.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Name of Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	12	1	—
Diphtheria ...	129	125	2
Whooping Cough ...	24	—	—
Measles ...	43	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	17	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	3	2	1
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis...	1	—	—
Malaria (recurrence) ...	1	—	—
Totals ...	235	128	3

TABLE 9.

## ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The figures shown in Column 2 of the foregoing Table are analysed in age groups below:—

Disease.	Number of Cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.											Total
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	U'kn		
Scarlet Fever	...	3...	1...	7...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	12	
Diphtheria	...	4...	27...	56...	14...	13...	15...	...	...	...	129	
Whooping Cough	4...	6...	12...	2...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	
Measles	...	2...	9...	23...	3...	6...	...	...	...	...	43	
Acute Pneumonia	3...	...	...	1...	...	10...	...	3...	...	...	17	
Cerebro-spinal												
Fever	...	...	...	1...	...	1...	...	1...	...	...	3	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1...	...	1...	...	2...	1...	...	5	
Acute												
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1	
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1	
(recurrence)												
Totals	...	9...	22...	63...	71...	20...	25...	16...	6...	1...	235	

**Isolation.**—The Authority is a constituent member of the St. Asaph Joint Hospital Board, and accommodation has been provided at St. Asaph Isolation Hospital for all cases of Infectious Disease which have been removed from the Borough. Such cases were transported to the Hospital in the ambulance provided by the Hospital Board. During the year, when the incidence of Infectious Disease was rather high, much use was made of the Hospital. It is an added advantage that the Hospital is such a short distance from the Borough.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**—The number of children who have been immunised has, of course, increased during the year. The total to the 31st December, 1944, was 3,371, resulting in the following percentages of children treated:—

Children under 5 years: 75.5% as against 66.2% last year;

Children between 5 and 15 years: 87.6% as against 77.8% last year.

Although no special effort has been made by the Department to draw the attention of parents to the immunisation service, regular numbers of request cards have been received

weekly throughout the year. In addition to this, visits were made to schools, where over 100 children were inoculated. The County Council's Health Visitor has helped substantially in the distribution of forms and information cards in the course of her routine visits to infants in the area.

**Scabies.**—The year has seen an increase in the incidence of this disease. Up to the 31st December, 32 cases were notified. Nine of these were severe, and had to be removed to Hawarden Isolation Hospital.

**Steam Fumigation.**—Use was made, during the year, of the steam fumigator at Dobb's Hill, Hawarden, for the fumigation of clothing, bedding, etc.

TABLE 10.—TUBERCULOSIS.  
New Cases notified during 1944.

Age Groups.			New Cases,				Total Cases.
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
0-	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
1-	...	...	5	—	1	—	6
15-	...	...	3	2	—	—	5
25-	...	...	2	2	—	1	5
35-	...	...	1	1	—	—	2
45-	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
55-	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
65-	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
All ages			15	5	1	1	22

Tuberculosis—Cases on the Register at end of 1944.

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total Cases.
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
60	34	94	18	24	42	136

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of expressing to you as a Council and to your Officers, my sincere thanks and appreciation for the co-operation and assistance which you have afforded to me during the year under report.

I remain, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

**W. A. F. TWEMLOW,**

Medical Officer of Health.

33, Church Street,  
Flint, July, 1945.

